

P-16 Joint Engineering Pipeline Program

What is the Kentucky P-16 Joint Engineering Pipeline Program?

This is a new program proposal that will give middle and high school students access to a rigorous curriculum that will prepare them for postsecondary engineering programs. This program will build on a successful national initiative led by Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a nonprofit organization that provides a four-year pre-engineering sequence for high school students, with an optional middle school program.

Why is a program like this needed?

Kentucky needs engineers and engineering technologists if it hopes to improve the economy and create more economic development opportunities in the state. Unfortunately, not enough Kentucky high school graduates and KCTCS transfer students are prepared to enroll in and successfully complete science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degree programs at Kentucky's colleges and universities.

Will this program encourage partnerships among education providers and other organizations?

The Council on Postsecondary Education will work closely with the Kentucky Department of Education to develop a cadre of 30 PLTW high schools over two biennia to strengthen the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degree pipeline. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System will play a key role by offering some of the upper-division courses through a dual credit arrangement. Kentucky school districts will provide matching grants to help support the program and develop their PLTW schools.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$500,000 of new funding in FY 2006-07 and an additional \$250,000 in FY 2007-08 to put into place pre-engineering curricula in select middle and high schools and a strategic KCTCS transfer framework to ensure that an adequate number of Kentucky high school graduates and transfer students aspire and are prepared to enroll in Kentucky's engineering programs.



Photo source: WKU

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